

NOVEMBER/

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2004



Trees on Maine Street Bulletin

IN THE WORKS



Sciadopitys verticillata
Japanese umbrella-pine

This small tree is used for its unusual texture and growth habit. Growth rate is extremely slow, perhaps 6" per year. Branches are stiff and stick straight out from the single trunk when young, but become more pendulous with age. For foliage effect and texture this tree is a nice specimen in the home or garden landscape, but has no proven urban tolerance.

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION MAINE FOREST SERVICE

R. ALEC GIFFEN
DIRECTOR

FOREST POLICY AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

We help you make informed decisions about
Maine forests



MAINE FOREST SERVICE PROJECT CANOPY

Few of us look forward to our annual performance reviews, but what if you could evaluate the performance of tree species in your community? You can, and it is a relatively simple process if you have a complete, or even a sample inventory. After a simple calculation you would know how well each tree species is performing, and more importantly, how each species performs relative to other species. The measure of performance is called a Relative Performance Index (RPI). The measure is based on the proportion of each public tree species classified in "good" condition divided by the total proportion of the total population classified in "good" condition. The RPI may be a completely new way of looking at your city trees which will provide a glimpse of what is really going on over the entire community forest. If it works for you, it just may provide a case for which species are "fired" or "promoted" in the future. For more information on this and other urban forest management tools, please contact Michael DeBonis, Project Canopy Director, at 207-287-4987 or michael.debonis@maine.gov

EDUCATIONAL "BRIEFS"

This year, GrowSmart Maine has begun to publish Smart Growth Educational Briefs on topics related to growth and planning. This work is the effort of GrowSmart Maine's Education Committee. The committee is made up of a group of volunteers, working to help educate the public about smart growth. In addition to the Educational Briefs, the committee will be working on expanding the newsletter, improving the web site, and identifying examples of smart growth in Maine to post on the web site at www.growsmartmaine.org

BRIEF TOPICS:

Planning for Downtown Development IS Smart Growth NEW!

The Creeping Cost of Sprawl NEW!

Parks and Open Space: Making In-town Living Attractive

The Maximum Solution: Maximum Lot Size and Densities in Rural Zoning Districts

What is Sprawl?

Growth Caps: The Cure for Maine's Growing Pains?

CONGRATULATIONS PROJECT CANOPY GRANT RECIPIENTS!

Please join us in congratulating the following communities on their successful proposals to the Project Canopy Assistance Program: City of Bangor, City of Bath, City of Belfast, City of Biddeford, Town of Brunswick, City of Calais, Town of Kennebunkport, Town of Lisbon, Town of Manchester, City of South Portland, and the Town of Veazie. Project Canopy provides grants to local governments, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations for developing and implementing community forestry projects and programs. For more information on the Project Canopy Assistance Program, please call Michael DeBonis at 1-800-367-0223 or visit www.projectcanopy.org.

TREE WARDEN EDUCATIONAL NEEDS SURVEY

Attention all Municipal Tree Wardens! The University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and each of the New England State Urban and Community Forestry Programs will be conducting an educational needs survey of all New England Tree Wardens. Since the beginning of the 1900's, Tree Wardens in all six New England states have been at the forefront in the care and maintenance of public trees. Tree Wardens are also unique in that the position is found in this region only and nowhere else. As a Tree Warden your responsibilities are so great that it is important that you have available the best educational opportunities, publications, and assistance to help in your position. This survey will help determine the educational needs of New England's Tree Wardens so that whatever assistance you need can be delivered efficiently and effectively. Be on the lookout for the New England Tree Warden Educational Needs Survey in the mail in early January 2005, and thank you in advance for your participation.

HUD PROGRAM LINKS

The US Housing and Urban Development Program has many programs relevant to the work we do in Urban and Community Forestry. Learn more about HUD programs that have a good fit with UCF with the following links.

1. Renewal Communities/Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities (RC/EZ/EC Program)
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/economicdevelopment/programs/rc/index.cfm>
2. Brownfields Redevelopment
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/economicdevelopment/programs/bedi/index.cfm>
3. HUD EMaps <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cio/emaps/index.cfm>
4. HOPE VI <http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/programs/ph/hope6/about/description.cfm>
5. Community Development Block Grant Entitlement
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs/entitlement/index.cfm>

THE MAINE FOREST SERVICE IS LOOKING FOR BIG TREES

The Maine Forest Service is seeking nominations for the 2005 Maine Register of Big Trees. Maine's Register lists 158 of the largest trees, representing 148 species. In addition to 148 state champions, Maine has two national champions: a Yellow Birch located in Deere Isle and an Eastern White Pine located in Morrill.

The next register will be printed in 2005, and the Maine Forest Service will accept nominations until **December 31, 2004**. To learn more about Maine's Register of Big Trees, please contact Michael DeBonis at 1-800-367-0223. To nominate a tree or to view the 2003 Register, please visit the Project Canopy website – www.projectcanopy.org



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IN THE WORKS (continued)

“Oh to be free of myself,
With nothing left to
remember,
To have my heart as bare
As a tree in December;

Resting, as a tree rests
After its leaves are gone,
Waiting no more for a rain
at night
Nor for the red at dawn”
~Sara Teasdale, *The Tree*

FERTILIZER & MULCH

LINKING UP

UP AND COMING

PROJECT CANOPY
assists communities and nonprofit,
grassroots organizations in building self-
sustaining urban and community forestry
programs with strong local support.

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THE LARGE TREE ARGUMENT

If you are concerned that small-stature trees are replacing the large-stature trees in your community, this new research summary will give you some new arguments to change thinking. To view the research summary go to:
http://cufr.ucdavis.edu/products/cufr_511_large_tree_arguement.pdf

STEMS SOFTWARE

The Northeast Center for U&CF recently released new tree maintenance and management software for use in municipal settings. The Street Tree Electronic Management System (STEMS) was designed to assist arborists, city foresters and consultants in the daily management of tree-care operations. STEMS is fully integrated with the MCTI tree inventory software which was also recently updated to include enhanced reporting and data collection capability. STEMS operates on the Windows operating system and requires the purchase of no additional software to function. It is an easy-to-use system that will provide a community with an affordable entry into electronic management of tree-maintenance operations. Additional information and download of STEMS may be found at
<http://www.umass.edu/urbantree/stems/>

TREES AND PARKING LOTS - GREEN LAW FOR URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Parking lots occupy about 10 percent overall of the land in U.S. cities, and can be as much as 20 to 30 percent of downtown core areas. Large areas of asphalt and other impervious surfaces contribute to environmental concerns such as heat island effects, reduced air quality, and stormwater flows. This report summarizes the municipal "green law" of numerous cities and towns (with a focus on the SE United States), with regard to landscaping and trees in parking lots. Multiple examples of regulatory tools are provided, demonstrating how communities can improve sustainability of urban areas. Copies of the trees, parking and urban sustainability report can be downloaded as a PDF file at: <http://www.cfr.washington.edu/research.envmind/transportation.html>

ACT FAST

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting proposals for brownfields assessment, revolving loan fund and cleanup grants. These grants are part of the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act to help states and communities around the country clean up and revitalize brownfield sites. Proposals are due to the EPA by November 12, 2004. The EPA is estimating that 200 grants will be available totaling \$100 million. The proposal guidelines for the grants are available at
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicat.htm#pg>.

NEW EPA WEBSITE ABOUT HEAT ISLANDS IN CITIES

The site provides basic information about the heat island effect, as well as detailed findings for individuals and organizations interested in taking action to cool their community. The term "heat island" refers to the phenomenon where cities and suburban areas are up to 10°F (6°C) warmer than nearby rural areas. See <http://www.epa.gov/heatisland>

DENDROLOGY WEBSITE FROM VIRGINIA TECH

The Dendrology homepage at Virginia Tech contains tree identification fact sheets on approximately 800 species of trees, as well as lots of other tree information. See <http://www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/main.htm>

November

3 Trees Mean Business: The Connecticut Urban and Community Forest Conference. Wallingford, CT, from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. This is an exciting event for all interested in urban and community forestry. For details and registration see www.cturbanforestcouncil.org/cufc_prgrm_04_pages.pdf.

5 Where the Roots Hit the Curb Symposium. James Urban, noted landscape architect and urban tree advocate will present the keynote address and highlights of his work to make better places for trees in cities. Philadelphia, Center City, Pennsylvania. For more information contact Mary Anne Hunter (215) 732-2313, Email: mahunter@comcast.net Link: <http://www.cityparksphila.org>

December

7 Trees, People, and the Law Conference. Penn State University, Great Valley Campus in Malvern, Pennsylvania. A complete brochure including seminar agenda and registration information is available at <http://www.arborday.org/tplseminars>

10 Grow Smart Summit, Augusta Civic Center. Visit www.growsmartmaine.org for more information.

If you would like to put your community’s activity on the calendar, please let one of the editors know by the 15th of each month.